

Message Text

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ORIGIN TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 AGRE-00 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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EB/OT/STA:MCJONES

EUR/RPE:ECASEY

USDA/FAS:EKARPOV

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R 170209Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EC

SUBJECT: IMPORTS OF CHEESE FROM THE EC

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REF: STATE 111095 5/13/75

1. SINCE EARLY JUNE THE CUSTOMS SERVICE HAS BEEN REPORTING SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF EC EMMENTHALER CHEESE ARRIVING IN THE U.S. AT UNUSUALLY LOW PRICES. REPORTS FOR THE LAST THREE WEEKS, FOR INSTANCE, INDICATE QUANTITIES OF THIS CHEESE CLASSIFIED UNDER EC CODE 3800-00 RANGING FROM 33,000 LBS. TO 36,000 LBS. AND PRICES RANGING FROM \$.80 TO \$1.11. SHIPMENTS REFLECTING THIS QUANTITY AND PRICE SHOW UP ROUGHLY EVERY OTHER WEEK. BEFORE JUNE AND AT TWO WEEK INTERVALS SINCE, SHIPMENTS OF 3800-00 CHEESE AVERAGED APPROXIMATELY 1,000 LBS. WEEKLY AT ABOUT \$1.37/LB. WE ARE CONCERNED OVER THIS SITUATION IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT CHEESE CLASSIFIED UNDER EC CODE 3800-00 HAS NOT RECEIVED A RESTITUTION PAYMENT SINCE APRIL 1975, WHEN THE AVERAGE EC EMMENTHALER PRICE WAS APPROXIMATELY \$1.28/LB.

2. WE HAVE NOTED A SIMILAR TREND IN CHEESES ENTERING UNDER EC CODES 5120-11 AND 5120-15, WHICH ARE LOW-FAT CHEESES AND NORMALLY CLASSIFIED BY CUSTOMS UNDER TSUS

NO. 117.6035-THE EMMENTHAL CATEGORY. THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE F.O.B. PRICE OF THIS CHEESE OVER THE PERIOD JANUARY-MARCH 1976 WOULD APPEAR TO BE TEN CENTS PER LB. HIGHER THAN THE APRIL-AUGUST PERIOD. IN THE ABSENCE OF EXPORT RESTITUTION PAYMENTS AND IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE EC INTERVENTION PRICE FOR MILK HAS RISEN OVER THAT PERIOD OF TIME, THESE PRICE TRENDS RUN COUNTER TO NORMAL EXPECTATION.

3. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON HAVE INDICATED THAT THE LOW PRICED EMMENTHALER COMES FROM THE PROVINCE OF BRITTANY IN FRANCE, WHICH PRODUCES SUCH CHEESE. THEY HAVE TOLD US THAT THIS CHEESE DOES NOT RECEIVE ANY FORM OF SUBSIDY.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION'S OBTAINING OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT THE EXPORTS OF THESE CHEESES TO THE U.S. DO NOT RECEIVE SUBSIDIES. IN ADDITION, ANY INFORMATION COMMISSION COULD PROVIDE ON LIKELY REASONS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNEXPECTED DOWNWARD DIRECTION OF PRICE TRENDS ON THESE ITEMS AND ON FUTURE SUPPLIES OF LOW PRICE EC EMMENTHALER WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

5. YOU MAY ASSURE EC OFFICIALS THAT THE COUNTERVAIL CASE IS NOT BEING REOPENED, BUT THAT THESE INQUIRIES ARE PART OF A CONTINUAL MONITORING OF THE CONDITIONS UPON WHEN THE WAIVER OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES WAS GRANTED. HABIB

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